

OCTOBER 2020

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

120 S. PARK AVENUE FREMONT, OH 43420 419-334-7171 WW.FREMONTFPC.ORG

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

### Words of Light, Life, and Love

The gospel of John focuses on who Jesus is, Jesus' identity. Take a moment to reflect on your own relationship with Christ. Who is Jesus to you? In the Gospel of John, chapter 14, verse 6, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Jesus is the way to God. Jesus helps us find our way. In this time of COVID19, it is especially difficult to find our way. Some of us may be struggling with health issues or financial difficulties. Finding the way is difficult. Our world has changed and our usual way of doing things has changed. So while it is always important, it is especially important now to remember that Jesus is the way. Jesus is the way to healing, redemption, and forgiveness. Jesus will lead us and help us find our way.

The Word, Jesus, became flesh so we may believe and know the way. If you examine Jesus' earthly ministry in the Gospels, we see people drop what they were doing to follow Him. People left careers, homes, and family to respond to Jesus' invitation to "Come and follow" and to go into the world to lead others to discipleship. John was an eyewitness to the truth of Jesus' ministry. Jesus came to break down barriers and walls that existed in society in his day. Jesus came to save humanity and turned the social status quo upside down. People of Jesus' time found themselves walking and living a new way.

On Sundays from now until the beginning of Advent we will journey with John as he reveals to us who Jesus is and guides us to a closer relationship with him. Join me in this deeper journey into the life of Christ. We will see that there is a general pattern to developing a closer relationship with Christ: repentance - belief - obedience.

John chapter 1, verses 1-5, serves as the introduction to the Gospel as John reminds us that Jesus is the Word of God and was and is with us. John is trying to communicate to us who Jesus is. In this COVID19 world, communication is very different. We rely on Zoom, the internet, and the telephone, and are learning to speak to others while wearing masks. John wants us to be good communicators and stresses that Jesus gives us life and is the light. In turn, we are called to be communicators of life and light. We need to take a

**We will be back to worshipping in the church building on October 4. See pages 4 and 5 for more details. Zoom opportunities will still be available as well.**

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#### Special points of interest:

- Sunday School 9 am, via Zoom
- Worship 10 am, via Zoom
- In-person Worship, 11:15 am
- Announcements

#### CONTACT INFO:

To contact the pastor, call the church office at 419-334-7171. In case of a pastoral emergency, call 419-341-2548.

#### NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE:

To change how you receive your newsletter or to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please email the church office at:

office@fremontfpc.org.  
Thank you!!

#### 2020 PER CAPITA

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good look, individually and as a society, as to what type of communicators we are. Lately as the political temperature rises, we send and hear words of hurt and blame, and communication is structured to force our own agendas. Before we are partakers of such communication, John calls us to pause and think: are these words leading others to Jesus? Are these words that bring life?

We were created to communicate with each other about Jesus and his love. We must take time to pause and focus on Jesus and his eternal wisdom. During these times, can we allow Jesus to direct our thoughts, words, and actions? According to John, the Word brought us into being, and God does not want us to speak badly about ourselves or others. After all, we are all God's creation, God's children. Let us pray for ourselves and our society that we might speak words of light and Jesus' love as we strive to walk in fellowship with one another.

Pastor Julie

### **Is Kirkmont Center Still Open? YES! Read About Our Great Summer.**

**Were we safe?** YES! None of our campers, counselors, staff, summer staff or weekly directors exhibited symptoms or tested positive for COVID 19. We continue to be vigilant in keeping lodging and dining room guests safe.

**How did Kirkmont succeed when other camps closed or their safety failures were widely reported?** When our facilities were closed in the spring we kept up with changes from the CDC, American Camp Association, and local county health department. Our entire staff followed regulations and guidelines rigorously. We cancelled some camps, kept our campers and groups small in population, encouraged social distancing for all camps, and only allowed staff and campers that had been in Ohio for at least two weeks. Many pools were closed this summer but not Kirkmont's; it was safely filled with happy campers.



#### **What was new?**

- ◇ Old canoes placed around camp served as hand-sanitizing stations.
- ◇ Rent-a-Cabent packages for a family to find a safe place in the woods for a range of activities and to escape a quarantined home. 27 families enjoyed the meals and activities.
- ◇ Day Camp provided safety and fun while parents were at work. Some day campers decided to stay for overnight camps.
- ◇ Homegrown Yoga Outdoor Classes.
- ◇ Renovations to Dunaway Lodge.

**What are our plans?** All the lodges are open. Call (937) 593-2141 to make reservations. United Way volunteers are painting the pool house interior. The next Volunteer Day is scheduled for September 19. Call to include your group. We are planning for summer 2021.

**How did Kirkmont Center survive financially** when the facilities were closed February through May? You responded with recurring contributions through the Presbyterian Foundation and one-time gifts. You enabled 212 Kirkmont campers to try new things, make new friends, grow in confidence, faith, and their love of nature. Thank you for considering a contribution to provide the Kirkmont experience to a larger number of campers and guests next year.

#### **Business spotlight: Kirkmont thankful to welcome campers**

If you would like to read a Bellefontaine Examiner article that talks more about how Kirkmont Center welcomed campers during this unusual season please go to [www.examiner.org](http://www.examiner.org).

# RAINBOW STATION NEWS



Welcome Fall. This sure has been a different kind of year all the way around. We have been enjoying a lot

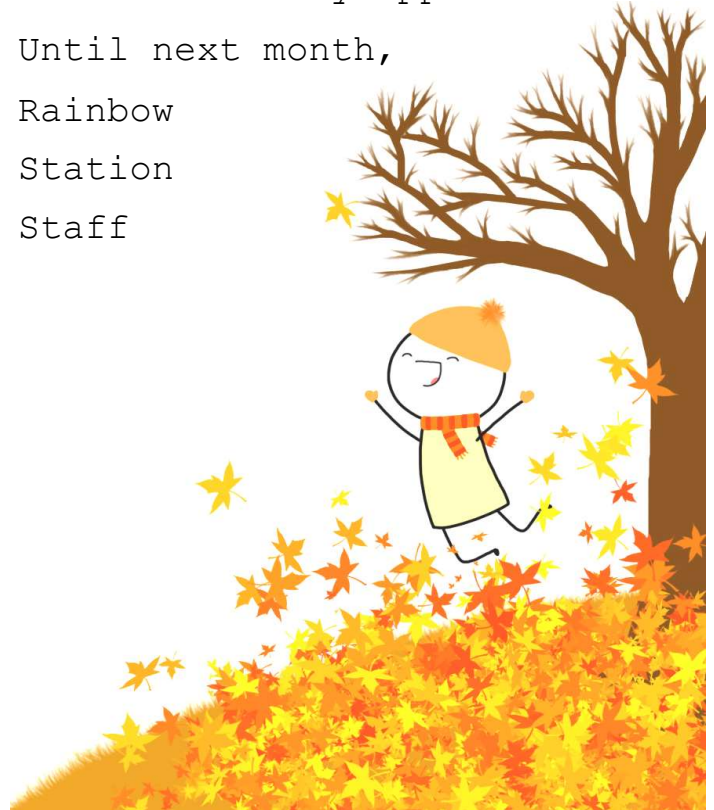
of time outdoors in the play yard and taking walks. The children don't seem to mind the crisp mornings and get upset when we won't let them take their shoes off in the sandbox. We can't seem to get them to understand it is a little too cool for that now.

Our current enrollment stands at 7 preschoolers and 1 toddler. We still have a couple of openings in the preschool room and several in the toddler room, if you know of anyone needing care. We are staying with the lower pandemic ratios until we are positive it is safe to do otherwise.

We miss not being able to do things the way we use to and ask for prayers that the little ones will understand as much as possible why we can't all play together all the time. I also ask that you would pray a hedge of protection around our families that all may remain healthy.

Thank you for all of your

prayers and support of any kind. We truly appreciate it. Until next month,  
Rainbow  
Station  
Staff



19 Miss Kathy

27 Tessa Burris

## First Presbyterian Church Reopening Guidelines 2020

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

We are planning on reopening the church for in-person worship on the first Sunday in October at 11:15 a.m. (Sunday School will be held via Zoom at 9:00 a.m., and there will be Zoom Church at 10:00 a.m. for those not comfortable meeting in person.)

Please read and plan on following the rules listed below so that we can ensure that we are able to worship safely and within the recommendations of the Sandusky County Health Department, the State of Ohio, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and Maumee Valley Presbytery.

- We will follow the state color coding system to determine if we will have our service in person or on Zoom only. When we have an in-person service, we will have a Zoom service also, for a time, until all persons feel safe in resuming in-person worship. If Sandusky County is in the red or purple on Governor DeWine's Ohio County chart, we will only have Zoom services at 10:00 a.m.
- Protocols for worship
  - Enter the church by Garrison Street only and exit through the parking lot door
  - Only two people will be allowed in the elevator at a time
  - Social distancing (six feet apart) will be maintained. Family units may sit together in the same pew. Please sit in the same pew each Sunday to make contact tracing easier should we need it.
  - Masks are **mandated** within the church on everyone over the age of two. Masks must cover the nose and mouth. Extra masks will be available at the entry doors if anyone needs one.
  - Hand sanitizer will be provided at the doors and **must** be used upon entering and is highly encouraged when exiting the church.
  - Each person attending in-person church services must take their own temperature at home before coming to church. **If your temperature is over 100.0 degrees F or you feel ill, we ask that you stay home. If you have health risks, you are encouraged to stay home** and en-

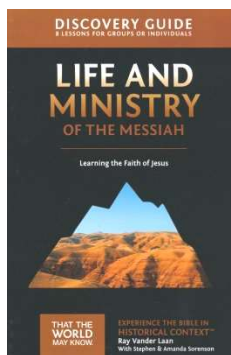
joy the service on Zoom or watch a TV church service.

- o No congregational singing will be allowed, with special vocal music to be determined at a later date.
  - o Communion will be observed the first and third Sundays of the month using pre-packaged elements.( We will also offer drive-up communion for those attending Zoom service. Dates to be determined.)
  - o All hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pew racks. You are encouraged to bring your own Bible with you.
  - o The collection plates will not be passed, but there will be containers by the back doors to the sanctuary to place your gifts and tithes in.
  - o There will not be any childcare or Sunday School for the children.
  - o A record of everyone attending in-person church will be kept and seating position recorded, with a record being kept in the office to facilitate contact identification and monitoring, if needed, by the Sandusky County Health Department.
- Social Room, Kitchen, and Rest Rooms
    - o The doors to the kitchen will be locked until further notice.
    - o Masks are mandated when in the Social Room, stairways, halls, and rest rooms, along with the sanctuary.
    - o Only one person at a time in any of the restrooms.
    - o Entry to the church will be through the door from Garrison Street and exit through the parking lot door.
    - o Please keep your coats with you in the sanctuary.
  - Cleaning
    - o The church will be cleaned on Friday prior to Sunday services, by the janitor.
    - o Cleaning requirements by outside groups using the church will be discussed with each group and thoroughly explained to them before use of the church is granted.

*Sharing of any future updates will be through the newsletter or the phone tree for information that needs to be distributed immediately.*

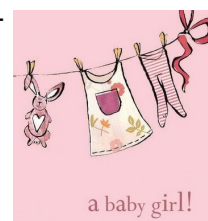
## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on Sunday mornings via Zoom for a new Bible study (began September 13). We plan to show a video at 9 a.m. and then have a short discussion about the topic. The 8 week DVD series is by Ray Vander Laan and focuses on the Life and Ministry of the Messiah. Ray visits the Holy Lands and explains the location being studied in a Bible passage. The first visit is to the spot of Herod's palace. He then explains how the events of Jesus' day impacted his life, ministry and communication. We have viewed lessons by him before and have found them to be extremely interesting. Join us if you can! Donna Cominsky



## WELCOME, BABY GIRL!

Congratulations to Calvin and Amanda Cowdrey on the birth of their daughter! Hazel Grace Marie was born September 1, 2020, weighing 5lbs, 2oz and measuring 18 inches long. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, Robert and Dannita Cowdrey. Blessings to you all and your little one! Welcome to the world, Hazel Grace Marie!



## Neighbors' News



The Pandemic has changed our lives but not our commitment to help feed the hungry. If you are able to help until we are able to collect food items, please send a contribution to:

**The Sandusky County Food Pantry**

129 Bidwell Ave.

Fremont, OH 43420

Please put *First Presbyterian Church Neighbors* on the memo line of your check.

Thanks for your help, Neighbor!

## 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to those who have continued to send in your contributions during this time of shut down! The mail is being delivered to the church, so if you are able and would like to continue to pay your 2020 contributions or pledges, please continue to make your checks out to First Presbyterian Church and mail them to:

120 S. Park Ave

Fremont, OH 43420

However, the church office is still closed and most office work is still being done from home, so if you would rather, you may continue to mail your contribution to:

Amy Monk

330 W. 5th St

Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

Thank you for your faithful giving!

## Birthdays

- 1 John Roush
- 1 Paul Stout
- 5 Carolyn Taylor
- 7 Royce Kohman
- 13 Elliot Herman
- 17 Philip Miarer
- 17 Don Steen
- 18 Marian Binder
- 19 Kathleen Daley
- 19 Lucy Hull
- 24 Abraham Ross
- 26 Willow Schultz
- 27 Lois Livingston
- 30 Paul Deffenbaugh

## Anniversaries

- 3 Mike & Amy Opre
- 4 Bill & Stacey McConnell
- 12 Jon & Melissa Detwiler
- 20 Royce & Betsy Kohman
- 21 Lori & Steve Damschroder
- 27 Michael & Pam Clark



## Praying for the Election

While the New Testament does not direct us to pray for elections [there were virtually no democracies in Bible days] it does instruct us to pray for our leaders. It is entirely appropriate, however, to pray for the process by which they are chose.

### Here are some suggestions:

- ◇ Pray that our country will be in the right relationship to God (II Chronicles 7:17).
- ◇ Pray that our leaders will come to know Christ as their Savior (I Timothy 2:1-3).
- ◇ Pray that God will give us righteous leaders (Proverbs 29:2).

### Here are some things to remember about receiving answers to our prayers:

- ◇ Never pray to impress people. Pray to talk with God (Matthew 6:5-7).
- ◇ Pray that God's purpose will be accomplished (I John 5:14).
- ◇ Pray in Jesus' name (John 15:16).
- ◇ Do not pray selfishly (James 4:3).
- ◇ Pray believing that God will answer your pray if it is His will (James 1:5, 6).
- ◇ Make certain that you have confessed sin that you are aware of (Psalm 66:18).
- ◇ Be sure that you have forgiven others for wrongs against you (Matthew 18:21-35)



## INNER PRAYER ROOM FOR 2020 ELECTION

Be part of an unbreakable chain of prayer over this election today when you add your own personal prayer. Our inner prayer room is open 24/7 so call any time and leave your prayer as we blanket our country and the election in prayer.

**1-844-829-2022 toll-free**

You can be a blessing and encouragement to many others. Your prayers will be aired on IPrayRadio and join thousands of voices across the country.

*The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. – James 5:16*

## YOUR OFFERINGS AT WORK IN PANDEMIC

You should be happy to know that your offerings have continued to be at work despite the limitations of the pandemic. While the church building has been closed to activities, our congregation's support of a wide range of worthy ministries has continued. Amy, our church's administrator, has faithfully mailed monthly contributions to Liberty Center, PCUSA missions, Tom Johnson with Reformed Church of America missions, Sandusky County Food Bank, Share and Care, Andrew and Holly Haas with Trans World Radio, and Youth for Christ of Northern Ohio. Each ministry has faithfully continued their work during the pandemic and have faithfully acknowledged our gifts each month. Please check the Mission and Outreach bulletin board at the parking lot entrance to see both sample thank you notes and the ministry newsletters.

They have been coming to the church all during the pandemic. Thank you all for your faithful gifts that make our congregation's support of these ministries possible. Direct any questions about these ministries to the Witness and Outreach Leadership Team moderator, John Roush.

Thank you!

**Sunday, October 4th: Scripture: John 1: 19-34**

Theme: witnessing, preparation

Sermon Title: "John, the Witness"

**Sunday, October 11th: Scripture: John 1: 35-51**

Theme: Discipleship, call to service

Sermon: "The First Disciples"

**Sunday, October 18th: Scripture: John 2**

Theme: Faith, knowing Jesus

Sermon: "Water into Wine"

**Sunday, October 25th: Scripture: John 3:1-15**

Theme: Following Jesus

Sermon: "What Must I Do"



**THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

- Kaylee Amor*
- Pam Clark*
- Gerrie Hensley*
- Amanda Herman*
- Anne Humberger*
- Lisa Zimmerman*
- Josh Ross (Moderator)*
- Diane Roush*

THE CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Pastor                           | Rev. Dr. Julie Kling   |
| Choir Director                   | Lori Damschroder       |
| Organist Emeritus                | Paul Livingston        |
| Secretary                        | Amy Monk               |
| Children's Ministry Coordinator  | Nicole Whetstone       |
| Rainbow Station Director/Teacher | Roberta Patterson      |
| Rainbow Station Teacher          | Kathleen Daley         |
| Rainbow Station Floater          | Shari Mehling          |
| Rainbow Station Aide             | Kali Norris            |
| Co-Treasurers                    | Larry & Carol Van Dyne |
| Volunteer Parish Nurse           | Linda Hamilton         |
| Custodian                        | Scott Slatter          |

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
COORDINATING TEAM

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Moderator        | Dannita Cowdrey |
| Secretary        |                 |
| Treasurer        | Carol Van Dyne  |
| Funeral Luncheon | Susan Myers     |
| Rachel Circle    | Dannita Cowdrey |
| Rummage Sales    |                 |
| At Large         | Jo Elder        |
|                  | Lois Livingston |

**THE SESSION**

- Jody Amor*
- Linda Hamilton*
- Bob Humberger*
- Ken Myers*
- John Roush*
- Larry Stout*
- Bill Taylor (Clerk)*
- Rev. Dr. Julie Kling (Moderator)*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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